

Child safety seats and transit in Kansas

by Tom Worker-Braddock



Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of accidental injury-related death for children ages 0-14 in Kansas. In 2003, 61 percent of the Kansas children killed were not using safety belts or child safety seats. Transit providers need to realize their role in protecting children when transporting children in either a primary capacity, for example, when contracting out to a daycare, or as a secondary capacity when transporting a child passenger traveling with or without an adult. Seat belt laws apply to transit providers that use passenger vans designed to carry 10 passengers or fewer.

The Kansas Child Passenger Safety Act (KSA 8-1344) applies to all vehicles designed for carrying 10 or fewer passengers, and stipulates that children under four years old be in a child safety seat, while children 4-8 years old be in a safety or booster seat unless they weigh more than 80 lbs or are taller than 4 ft 9 inches. Children between 8 and 14 must be protected by a safety belt. The only exceptions to these rules are if the vehicle weighs over 16,000 pounds, or if there are more children in the vehicle than available safety belts.

Transit providers need to have

Kansas law on child safety seats

The Child Passenger Safety Act (KSA 8-1344) is a primary law.

Requirements:

All children under age four must be in a federally-approved child safety seat. Children age four to under the age of eight years must be in a federally-approved child safety seat/booster seat **UNLESS** the child weighs more than 80 pounds **OR** is taller than 4 ft 9 inches in height. Children eight years of age but under the age of 14 must be protected by a safety belt.

Applies to:

All drivers transporting children.
All vehicles designed for carrying 10 passengers or fewer.
Kansas residents and non-residents alike.
All seating positions in vehicle.
Pickup trucks registered for 12,000 pounds
Farm trucks registered for 16,000 pounds.

Other provisions:

- Drivers may be stopped solely for a violation of this law.
- Only drivers may be cited for violations.
- There is no violation if the children (ages 4 but under 14 years old) being transported exceeds the number of securing locations and all securing locations are in use by children.
- Only a single violation exists even when more than one child in a vehicle is not properly restrained.
- Convictions are not considered moving violations.
- \$10 of the fine and court costs may be waived if a safety restraining system is obtained.
- Persons under the age of 14 are prohibited from riding in any portion of the vehicle not intended for passengers; this includes riding in the back of pickup trucks.

Source: <https://www.ksdot.org/burTrafficSaf/chpasafy/chilsetla.asp>

clear, written policies regarding transporting children, specifically relating to the use and provision of child safety seats or boosters. Children transported in a van that can carry 10 or fewer passengers need to be in either booster seats or child safety seats. Even if the provider requires parents to provide child safety or booster seats, transit

drivers still need to be familiar with how to use the safety seat attachment features in their transit vehicle.

Sources:

http://www.kdheks.gov/safekids/child_passenger.html
www.seatcheck.org ▲